REMARKS

In a final Office Action mailed February 6, 2007, claims 9-11, 14 and 15 were allowed, claims 12-13 were objected to as dependent on a base claim but were indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form, and claims 1-8 and 16-17 were rejected. This amendment amends claims 2-5, 9 and 16-17 and cancels claims 1 and 6-8. No new matter has been added.

Claims 6-7, 12-13 and 16-17 were provisionally rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting over claims in co-pending Application No. 10/625,597. A terminal disclaimer referencing the present application has been filed in the '597 application. Applicants submit that the terminal disclaimer renders the double patenting rejection moot, since for applications filed on the same day a terminal disclaimer is only required in the non-"base" application. See M.P.E.P. §804, Part I.B.1.

Claims 1-8 and 16-17 were rejected as obvious over Wolff (U.S. Patent No. 6,081,261) in view of Ericson (U.S. Patent No. 6,666,376). Applicants respectfully disagree with the analysis presented in the Office Action. However, to further prosecution of the application claims 1 and 6-8 have been canceled, claims 2-5 have been amended to depend from claims 9-15, and claims 16-17 have been amended to include limitations based on those in claim 12. Applicants respectfully submit that claims 16-17 are allowable for at least the same reasons as claims 9-15. In view of the amendments and remarks presented above, the §103 rejection is moot and all claims are in condition for allowance.

Appl. No. 10/625,659 Reply to Office Action of Feb. 6, 2007

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any fees or credit any overpayment to the deposit account of Kenyon & Kenyon LLP, Deposit Account No. 11-0600. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned to discuss any matter concerning this application.

Respectfully submitted,

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